

## § 388.101

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301-305, 551-557; 42 U.S.C. 7101-7352.

SOURCE: Order 488, 53 FR 1473, Jan. 20, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

### § 388.101 Scope.

This part prescribes the rules governing public notice of proceedings, publication of decisions, requests for informal advice from Commission staff, procedures for press, television, radio and photographic coverage, requests for Commission records, requests for confidential treatment of documents submitted to the Commission, procedures for responding to subpoenas seeking documents or testimony from Commission employees or former employees, fees for various requests for documents, and requests for reduction or waiver of these fees.

### § 388.102 Notice of proceedings.

(a) Public sessions of the Commission for taking evidence or hearing argument; public conferences and hearings before a presiding officer; and public conferences or hearings in substantive rulemaking proceedings, will not be held except upon notice.

(b) Notice of applications, complaints, and petitions, is governed by Rule 2009 (notice) in part 385 of this chapter. Notice of applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act is governed by §157.9 of this chapter (notice of application). Notice of public sessions and proceedings and of meetings of the Commission is governed by Rule 2009 (notice) in part 385 of this chapter. Notice of hearings and of initiation or pendency of rulemaking proceedings is governed by Rule 1903 (notice in rulemaking proceedings) in part 385 of this chapter. Notice of application under Part I of the Federal Power Act for preliminary permits and licenses is governed by §§4.31 and 4.81 of this chapter (acceptance or rejection and contents). Notice of proposed alterations or surrenders of license under section 6 of the Federal Power Act may be given by filing and publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER as stated in Rule 1903 (notice in rulemaking proceedings) in part 385 of this chapter, and where deemed desirable by the Commission, by local newspaper

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advertisement. Notice of rates charged and changes therein is governed by the filing requirements of subchapters B and E of this chapter (regulations under the Federal Power Act and regulations under the Natural Gas Act). Other notice required by statute, rule, regulation, or order, or deemed desirable, may be given by filing and publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER as governed by Rule 1903 in part 385 of this chapter (notice in rulemaking proceedings) or by service as governed by Rule 2010 (service) in part 385 of this chapter.

### § 388.103 Notice and publication of decisions, rules, statements of policy, organization and operations.

Service of intermediate and final decisions upon parties to the proceedings is governed by Rule 2010 (service) in part 385 of this chapter. Descriptions of the Commission's organization, its methods of operation, statements of policy and interpretations, procedural and substantive rules, and amendments thereto will be filed with and published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Commission opinions together with accompanying orders, Commission orders, and intermediate decisions will be released to the press and made available to the public promptly. Copies of Commission opinions, orders in the nature of opinions, rulemakings and selected procedural orders, and intermediate decisions which have become final are published in the *Federal Energy Guidelines* and upon payment of applicable charges, may be obtained from: Commerce Clearing House, Inc. 4025 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60646. Attention: Order Department.

### § 388.104 Informal advice from Commission staff.

(a) The Commission staff provides informal advice and assistance to the general public and to prospective applicants for licenses, certificates, and other Commission authorizations. Opinions expressed by the staff do not represent the official views of the Commission, but are designed to aid the public and facilitate the accomplishment of the Commission's functions. Inquiries may be directed to the chief of the appropriate office or division.

(b) Any inquiry directed to the Chief Accountant that requires a written response must be accompanied by the fee prescribed in §381.301 of this chapter.

(c) A request directed to the Office of the General Counsel for a legal interpretation of any statute or implementing regulation under the jurisdiction of the Commission must be accompanied by the fee prescribed in §381.305 of this chapter.

[53 FR 15383, Apr. 29, 1988]

**§ 388.105 Procedures for press, television, radio, and photographic coverage.**

(a) The Commission issues news releases on major applications, decisions, opinions, orders, rulemakings, new publications, major personnel changes, and other matters of general public interest. Releases are issued by and available to the media from the Office of External Affairs. Releases may be obtained by the public through the Public Reference Room.

(b) Press, television, radio and photographic coverage of Commission proceedings is permitted as follows:

(1) Press tables are located in each hearing room, and all sessions of hearings are open to the press, subject to standards of conduct applicable to all others present;

(2) Television, movie and still cameras, and recording equipment are permitted in hearing rooms prior to the opening of a hearing or oral arguments, and during recesses, upon prior arrangement with the Commission or presiding administrative law judge. All equipment must be removed from the room before hearings or oral arguments begin or resume;

(3) Television, movie and still cameras, and recording equipment may not be used while hearings and oral arguments before administrative law judges are in progress;

(4) Television and press cameras and recording equipment may be used at Commission press conferences under prior arrangement with the Office of External Affairs, provided their use does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the press conference;

(5) Regulations pertaining to the use of television, movie and still cameras, and recording equipment in in connec-

tion with the Commission's open public meetings under the Government in the Sunshine Act are found in §375.203 of this chapter.

**§ 388.106 Requests for Commission records available in the Public Reference Room.**

(a) A Public Reference Room is maintained at the Commission's headquarters and is open during regular business hours as provided in §375.101(c) of this chapter. Documents may be obtained in person or in writing from the Public Reference Room by reasonably describing the records sought.

(b) The public records of the Commission that are available for inspection and copying upon request in the Public Reference Room include:

(1) Applications, declarations, complaints, petitions, and other papers seeking Commission action;

(2) Financial, statistical, and other reports to the Commission, power system statements of claimed cost of licensed projects, original cost and reclassification studies, proposed accounting entries, certificates of notification (under section 204(e) of the Federal Power Act), rates or rate schedules and related data and concurrences, and other filings and submittals to the Commission in compliance with the requirements of any statute, executive order, or Commission rule, regulation, order, license, or permit;

(3) Answers, replies, responses, objections, protests, motions, stipulations, exceptions, other pleadings, notices, certificates, proofs of service, transcripts of oral arguments, and briefs in any matter of proceeding;

(4) Exhibits, attachments and appendices to, amendments and corrections of, supplements to, or transmittals or withdrawals of any of the foregoing;

(5) All parts of the formal record in any matter or proceeding set for formal or statutory hearing, and any Commission correspondence related thereto;

(6) Presiding officer actions, correspondence, and memoranda to or from others, with the exception of internal communications within the Office of Administrative Law Judges;